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Squadron One holds change of command

Mine Countermeasures Squadron One will change hands March 26, when Capt. Barry Dagnall will turn over the helm to Capt. Robert F. Riehl during a traditional change of command ceremony at 10 a.m., on the Naval Station Ingleside waterfront. Rear Adml. Michael P. Nowakowski, Commander, Mine Warfare Command, will preside over the ceremony. The U.S. Navy Band New Orleans will provide musical selections.

MCM Squadron One is a readiness and tactical staff charged with providing afloat mine warfare tactical support to Theater Amphibious and Carrier Task Force Commanders, primarily in the Pacific theater. The squadron staff routinely conducts deployments to Korea and Japan in support of military operations and strategic objectives.

Capt. Dagnall is heading to the Pentagon, where he will serve on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as head of the Mine Warfare Branch.

MCMRON One has had many accomplishments since Capt. Dagnall assumed command in July 2002. Mine Warfare Readiness Group Two successfully participated in 13 exercises including Mercury/Gulf of Mexico Exercise 02, Ulchi Focus Lens 02 and Ulchi Focus Lens 03, Joint Fleet Exercise 03-1, and Transparent Hunter/Combined Joint Task Force Exercise 03-2.

Capt. Dagnall served as the task force commander, CTF 777, for UFL 02 and UFL 03, and assumed the role of Immediate Superior in Command to 10 additional mine warfare ships during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this period, his ships successfully completed six Underway Demonstrations, two Inspection and Survey inspections, and six basic training phase Final Evaluation Problems (FEP). In every case, his commands were successful and his efforts contributed greatly to providing Mine Warfare Command with additional surge ready assets for the war effort.

Capt. Riehl's most recent assignment was in Stuttgart, Germany, where he served on the staff of the U.S. European Command as deputy and director of the Middle East Africa Division in the Plans and Policy Directorate.

The Philadelphia native earned a bachelors degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh in April 1981. He entered Aviation Officer Candidate School in June 1981, and received his commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy in September 1981.

Upon being designated a Naval Aviator in July 1982, Capt. Riehl reported to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Twelve for initial fleet replacement pilot training. In March 1986, he reported to Helicopter Training Squadron Eight at NAS Whiting Field, Fla., for duty as a primary and advanced helicopter flight training instructor.

In April 1989, Capt. Riehl reported as the assistant air operations officer on board USS Saipan (LHA 2). In May 1991, he reported to HM 12 for duty as an instructor pilot and transitioned to the MH-53E. In April 1992, he reported to HM 14, where he served as the administrative officer, operations officer and aircraft maintenance officer. In September 1994, he reported to Commander, Helicopter Tactical Wing Atlantic, for duty as the wing operations officer.

In October 1995, Captain Riehl reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel as the helicopter combat support/helicopter mine countermeasures community placement officer. He also served as flag aide to the Chief of Naval Personnel and subsequently, the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion.

In July 1998 he reported as the executive officer of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen in Corpus Christi and then assumed command of that squadron in March 2000.

Capt. Riehl earned a masters degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, and other individual and unit awards.